

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any final decision for disinvestment by the Government in the IISCO has been taken; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (c). Government have not yet taken a decision in this regard. The proposal regarding modernisation of IISCO is pending before Public investment Board. SAIL are also exploring various alternatives regarding project funding.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

System for distribution of Coal

***217. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have devised any system for proper distribution of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to change the existing system; if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). There is an existing distribution policy for coal. This policy provides for priority allocation as well as movement of coal to core sector industries/consumers like power, cement, steel, railway traction etc., on the basis of sponsorship by Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Industries,

Railways etc. The next priority is allocated to non-core sector industries, which are either sponsored by Ministry of Industries or respective State Governments. Besides this, soft coke and coal is supplied for domestic consumption on the basis of annual allocation made for State Governments, through authorized agents duly sponsored by State Governments. Coal is also made freely available to all consumers, 1000 tonnes at a time, on first come first served basis, from certain mines placed under liberalised sales scheme.

(c) Distribution policy for coal requires periodical reviews to adjust to the changing patterns of demand and supply in order to maximise consumer satisfaction. Recently a paper on the subject has been prepared and the views of the State Governments on the paper have been invited. The changes would be made, as and when considered necessary, after considering the suggestions received in this regard.

[English]

Taking over of Bauxite Mines

***218. SHRI KARIA MUNDA:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take over bauxite mines to control the rising prices of non-ferrous metals including aluminium;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to control the prices of non-ferrous metals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no price control on aluminium by Government. The price of aluminium is fixed by the primary producers after taking into account various factors including their cost of production.

Zinc, lead and copper are canalised items of import and the prices of these metals are fixed on the basis of landed costs. Government has recently undertaken fiscal measures like reduction in auxiliary duties on the import of zinc and copper. It has also de-licensed the production on non-ferrous metals in order to promote indigenous production.

Production of Crude Oil

*219 DR. A.K.PATEL:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indigenous crude oil production is likely to be short of the original target fixed during the current financial year;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The crude oil production was estimated to be 35.06 million tonnes, including 1 million tonnes of NGL. However, for various reasons, this is not likely to be achieved.

(c) For the current year at present approval has been given for import of 20.3 million tonnes of crude oil.

Damage Caused by Floods

*220. SHRI K. PRADHANI:
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Territories affected by the recent heavy rains and floods;

(b) the estimated loss caused thereby to property, crops and livestock in each affected State/Union Territory;

(c) the number of persons killed, injured and rendered homeless in each affected State/Union Territory;

(d) the Central assistance sought by each such State/Union Territory and the amount actually released;

(e) the State/Union Territory visited by the Central Team(s) in this regard; and

(f) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government on the reports of the Central Teams?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a). The States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Union Territory of Pondicherry were affected by heavy rains and floods under the influence of recent cyclones.

(b) and (c). The details of damage to life and property reported by the State Governments and Union Territory Administration are given in the attached statement.

(d) The State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and Union Territory Administration of Pondicherry have sought financial assistance from the Central Government as follows:-